

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

12/19/44

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY

U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Down the Hatch"—Information from the Office of Supply, Commodity Credit Corporation, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

ooOoo

During the course of the European war...the United States captured a German submarine...off the coast of Africa. It was towed to America where engineers overhauled the motors...and an American crew was put aboard.

Then the "U 505" was sent on a mission...to boost the sale of war bonds...during the Seventh War Bond Drive. People in Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington, and Norfolk...were allowed to go on the submarine and look around...if they bought a war bond.

The sub had other missions too...missions that weren't planned by our navy...but which were important anyway.

Homemakers...for example...who saw the sub...began asking questions about food. They found that 60 Germans stayed on board...for trips sometimes as long as three months. That means a lot of food had to be stored and cooked.

For the Germans...it was mostly canned food. And it was stored in every spare space that could be found.

This type of storing was necessary...not only because of the amount of food...but because of the structure of a submarine. The whole thing is naturally compact. The ceiling is low...about 6 or 7 feet...so there isn't much wall space for cupboards...and the dimensions of the rooms are small. The galley...or kitchen...is about 10 feet across and 6 feet wide...and isn't very big. But put into that space a three-burner...one small and two large...electric stove, one cupboard,

(more)

7-2 45

refrigerator, dishwasher, and sink...and there isn't enough room left to stretch in...and certainly no room for storing food.

The Germans had to store most of their canned goods in the bilges, the water tanks used to submerge the vessel.

The American skipper explained that any crew...after extended time at sea...develops a big appetite for fresh milk, fruit, and vegetables. Long hours below decks and under water...with limited supplies of fresh food...little sunshine and fresh air...result in a craving for these foods...to replenish physical reserves used up on the cruise.

To the homemaker-visitor...the sub story was not only an appeal to buy war bonds...but a lesson, Navy style...of the values of milk, fruit and those Victory Garden foods that mean so much to American families...and our national food supply

7-2-45

#

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ JUL 7 1945 ☆
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE